

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02
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R 300440Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9424
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 7087

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: N/A
SUBJECT: INTERIM AGREEMENT ON CO-DETERMINATION

REF: STOCKHOLM 6854

1. AFTER WEEKS OF MUTUAL RECRIMINATIONS, SWEDISH LABOR AND MANAGEMENT HAVE AT LAST TAKEN A COUPLE OF POSITIVE STEPS IN THE OPENING ROUNDS OF THEIR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL, THE NEW INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS LAW WITH ITS CO-DETERMINATION PROVISIONS WILL AUTOMATICALLY TAKE EFFECT ON JANUARY 1. SINCE THE PARTIES WILL OBVIOUSLY BE UNABLE TO REACH COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS ON CO-DETERMINATION BEFORE THAT DATE, THE EMPLOYERS FEDERATION (SAF), LO AND PTK (JOINT ORGANIZATION OF SALARIED EMPLOYEES IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY) HAVE SENSIBLY ARRIVED AT AN UNDERSTANDING WHEREBY EACH WILL RECOMMEND TO MEMBER INDUSTRIES AND UNIONS TO DO THEIR BEST TO IRON OUT ANY DISPUTE WHICH MAY ARISE OUT OF THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LAW. LO AND PTK WILL URGE LOCAL UNIONS TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES AT EVERY WORK-PLACE TO DEAL WITH CO-DETERMINATION QUESTIONS WHILE SAF ON ITS SIDE WILL ENCOURAGE COMPANIES TO KEEP THOSE REPRESENTATIVES INFORMED OF ALL RELEVANT DEVELOP-
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MENTS. A SIMILAR AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE PARTIES IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AREA.

2. IN AN EARLIER ACTION, LO AND PTK ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE A SAF PROPOSAL TO SET UP A JOINT COMMITTEE TO STUDY WAYS OF INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY (SEE STOCKHOLM

6123). BEFORE THE VENTURE CAN GO FORWARD, BOTH SIDES
WILL HAVE TO AGREE UPON A SET OF DIRECTIVES TO THE
COMMITTEE.

3. AGAINST THESE SIGNS OF A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT, EMERGED
A RECENT NEWSPAPER SURVEY OF EMPLOYER OPINION RESULTED
IN PREDICTIONS THAT NEGOTIATIONS THIS COMING YEAR WILL BE
MORE DIFFICULT THAN EVER BEFORE. IT WAS GENERALLY THOUGHT
THAT NO AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED BEFORE JULY AND THAT
THE RISKS FOR OPEN CONFLICT WERE MUCH GREATER THAN THEY
HAVE BEEN FOR A LONG TIME.
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